



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-3000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION

April 5, 2001

Dear Board of Directors:

I regret to inform you that budget constraints require that HUD's "Best Practices" program be discontinued. As it was originally conceived, "Best Practices" allowed us to share information about the Department's activities and those of our housing and community development partners. While sharing this information is a worthwhile endeavor, the costs of the endeavor have grown so significantly that we can no longer support it in its current incarnation. Secretary Martinez has determined that these funds should be transferred to HUD's Training Academy and are essential to meet the needs of the Department's employees and our program objectives. This was a difficult decision, and we will examine other means of achieving the objectives of the Best Practices program at a sustainable cost.

The Department appreciates your commitment to more effective use of HUD resources to improve America's communities and assist low-income families. Your efforts are critical in helping us work toward those ends. While "Best Practices" helped us share information, the real engines of change are the men and women like you - who work every day to face local challenges and capitalize on opportunities to help those in need.

Once again, thank you for your long-standing support of the Department's mission. I look forward to working with you in the future to meet our common goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael F. Hill", is positioned above the typed name.

Michael F. Hill
Acting Associate Deputy
Assistant Secretary for
Administration